

fulfill his potential as a modern shaman. If you don't believe that shamanism is an art taught by the unconscious mind to the conscious mind of the new shaman, simply utilize the methods contained within this book. They work. How else could the author have come by such knowledge?

The only true threat to the continuance of shamanism is the further enslavement of the minds of humans forced to exist within social matrixes which control thoughts and actions. Shamanic and magical powers cannot be obtained until a mind is freed from the control memes which dominate and form the false conscious minds of most modern individuals. As long as human beings are able to isolate themselves for a specified period of time from memetic influences shamans will continue to be born. But if a time comes when isolation becomes impossible, the human organism would be cut off from its spiritual roots, and shamanism could then become extinct. Such complete control of the minds of individuals might be possible, particularly if technological devices such as computers, communication systems, and entertainment devices were to be implanted directly into human organisms. Such technological devices are already capable of being made. It is only a matter of time before these items are mass-produced and distributed to the citizens of Western Civilization.

POWER ANIMALS AND MYTHICAL CREATURES

Shamans traveling to the underworld (the subconscious mind) often come into contact with mythical creatures such as dragons, unicorns, or the like. Also very common are hybrid creatures consisting of many different animals in conjunction; for example a human body with the head of a bird.

Many shamans consider power animals, or companion spirits, to be the source of their power. Shamans sometimes collect material objects which are seen as physical representations of their power animals. While these material objects, which can include rocks, plants, figurines, statues, works of art, and many other things besides, appear as normal physical objects in the objective, material world, the real spirits residing within the power objects can actually be seen by the shaman while under the

power of consciousness-altering botanicals or in shamanic trance.

Artistic memetic magic is without question a system drawing on the same spiritual powers shamans have been drawing upon for millennia. Automatic drawings composed utilizing artistic memetic magical techniques almost always result in the depiction, in artistic form, of mythical beasts residing within the subconscious mind, power animals, or spirits. Artistic memetic magic is a method of utilizing true shamanic power to access the spiritual realm to capture images of that realm in pictorial montages. In this regards it adds to the traditional shamanic techniques, for now shamans can use artistic memetic magic as a sixth sense to look into the spiritual realm at any time and capture images of what is occurring within, without the necessity of being in a trance state. In the process of capturing images of the spiritual realm, a conduit is opened between the spirit realm and the material plane, whose portal is the work of art created.

Just as archaic shamans capture and maintain a collection of power animals to be called upon when needed for supernatural power; artistic memetic magicians summon and collect spirits with each work of art they create. But while archaic shamans need to enter a trance state through the use of mind-altering drugs, intense concentration, dancing, or drumming in order to see their spirits, the artistic memetic magician can see his or her spirits simply by looking at the artwork that has been created.

Many shamans claim that their journeys into the underworld begin with a decent into a hole in the Earth such as a cave, serpent den, hollow tree stump, or even a river. The reader should examine the picture *The Love between Plants and Animals*. The border which surrounds the spirits contained within this picture is in fact a hollow tree stump, drawn using artistic memetic magical techniques, before the author had any knowledge of this aspect of shamanic lore. Therefore, the magical picture *The Love between Plants and Animals* is clear evidence that artistic memetic magic draws upon and utilizes shamanic techniques to access the underworld, or the unconscious mind, to contact the spirits within.